



August 2015 UNiverse

NWUUC NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Meet Northwest's New Lay Leadership Team

The start of the 2015-2016 program year in July ushered in the new leadership at Northwest. The Board and Ministry Team Leaders are eager to work together with the general congregation to make this coming year a success.

Many behind-the-scenes volunteers, with the leadership and staff, also make our congregation thrive. We'd like to introduce you to the new leaders who were voted into office at the May Congregational Meeting.

President David Morgen



I have been a member at Northwest since 2007 and was a Trustee-at-Large on the Board from 2012-2014 before serv-

ing as President-Elect last year. As President, I hope to maintain the traditions of Northwest while helping us to welcome new faces into the congregation. I plan to look into programs to increase our accessibility and to renew our Welcoming Congregation status.

President-Elect Kristen Fowks



I've been a member at Northwest for more than 20 years. I've served Northwest as an RE teacher and committee

member and aided in the development of our Mission statement. I've also been involved with various committees, served four years on the Board (one as President), and now serve on the Endowment Committee and am now rejoining the Board as President-Elect.

Finance Trustee Allen Rider



I'm a cradle Unitarian Universalist. As an adult, I joined the UU Fellowship of Decatur, Illinois in 1982 and have been an active UU ever since. I have

been a member of five congregations and a board member at two of them. I've been a member of Northwest since 2009. I was chairman of NWUUC's Ministerial Search Committee. My wife Karen Reagle and I are active in local and denominational affairs. I work as an engineering manager for Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Becki Gregory, Secretary



I've been a UU since 1977 and member of Northwest since 2009. I served on the search committee that resulted in the congregation's call

of Rev. Terry Davis and have also been on the Personnel Committee. By profession, I am a human resources

manager with responsibility for my company's Canadian operations. An avid outdoors person, I like to do almost anything outside, particularly if it involves water. I share my home with two cats.

Trustee-at-Large

Beth Stokes Clinton



I've been a member of Northwest for five years. I grew up in Georgia and graduated from Oberlin College, then earned a Master's in Public Health from Colum-

bia University. I have been a member of the choir, contributed to Art Gallery shows, and have worked actively in the Earth Ministry where I helped to develop the NWUUC inter-agency collaboration with the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance. My career includes 10 years as Executive Director of the World Federation of Health Agencies and six years as Communications Director of Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty.

Story continues on page 2.

Meet the New Lay Leadership Team, *continued*

Trustee-At-Large Roland DeWitt



I became a Unitarian Universalist in 1972 after having been an ordained Baptist minister. I was a member at UUCA before joining Northwest in June 2014. I have served as an usher, greeter, newcomer representative and have been a member of several ministries. I'm a native Atlantan and have three adult children and four grandchildren, all of whom live in Atlanta.

Trustee-at-Large Glenn Koller



I was born in Buffalo, NY and raised Catholic. After receiving an M.S. in geochemistry and Ph.D. in geophysics, I moved to Aiken, SC to start a job at the Savannah River Laboratory. A coworker introduced me to the UU congregation in Augusta, GA. Later, I moved to Tulsa, OK and participated in the Hope and All Souls UU congregations, where I served in a wide variety of positions. With my wife Karen I moved to Dunwoody in July 2012. I first attended Northwest, coincidentally, on the same day Terry started her ministry.

Immediate Past President and Stewardship Ministry Team Leader (MTL)



As immediate Past-President, I am very familiar with the importance of Stewardship. Our annual pledge drive, the activity most associated with Stewardship, generates the bulk of the funds needed to keep the Northwest trains running, but doesn't cover everything. That's actually a good thing because it gives us an opportunity to be creative and have fun while we generate funds needed to support Northwest and secure its future. The country of Bhutan uses a measure called "gross national happiness." Keith Kreycik and I often talked about Gross Northwest Happiness when we were on the Board together. It was our way of adding a qualitative criteria into decisions we had to make. I look forward to the Stewardship team embracing our role as fund-raisers and fun-raisers.



Adult Learning Co-MTL Laura Hall

I joined Northwest in 2005 and have worked in a variety of volunteer roles since then. I assumed the duties of Learning Ministry Team Leader last year and look forward to

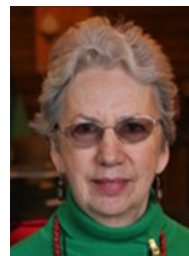
continuing my role this coming church year. I'm pleased to have been joined by Harry Trendell as a co-team leader and look forward to working with him as we plan interesting and challenging adult learning opportunities.

Adult Learning Co-MTL Harry Trendell



I came to Northwest after my daughter Alison and son-in-law Brian were married by Rev. Terry Davis in May 2014. I found Northwest to be an open and welcoming community and joined in October 2014. I have served as a Greeter, gave a second-hour talk on "The Geography of Religion," and, most recently, spoke as an Assistant Worship Leader. Laura Hall asked me to help her with the Learning Ministry, and here I am being drawn more and more into the UU community through service.

Community MTL Ruth Subramanian



I have been a member since December 1988 when Mani and I moved to Atlanta from New Jersey. My first and continuing volunteer activity has been singing in the choir, but I have also served as Secretary for the Board of Trustees and been active on the Membership Committee. I have been active in a number of committees, including Fellowship, Membership, and Communications. Since community is what members often cite as the thing they like most about Northwest, I would like to foster that sense of community through small groups and experiment with creating neighborhood groups. I also want to continue to provide a welcoming atmosphere to all newcomers and facilitate the path to membership for those who want to pursue it.

Earth MTL Keith Kreycik



I joined First Parish, Cohasset, MA in 1990 where I served as finance trustee and taught AYS (now OWL). In Richmond VA, at First UU, I served on the Board of Trustees and led the pledge campaign for several years. I joined Northwest in 2008 and have served as finance trustee and, later, president. I have been involved as MTL for Gardens and Spaces. This year I am serving as MTL for Earth Ministry and hope to learn how we can all live lightly and happily on the Earth.

Meet the New Lay Leadership Team, *continued*

Gardens & Spaces MTL Dave Zenner



I came to Northwest with Pam in 2007. As an architect I offered to assist with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and in 2008 I became the first Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team Leader. I joined the Board as President-Elect then served as President in 2010-2011. I became the Earth Ministry Team Leader in 2011, and served

in that capacity until this year, when I again became the Gardens & Spaces (G&S) Team Leader. My hope for G&S is that our beautiful facilities will be kept clean and safe, and that we can undertake an upgrade to our parking lot lighting. I envision that the G&S Team will address accessibility, specifically by working toward congregational certification by the UU Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM), focused on welcoming, embracing, integrating, and supporting people with disabilities and their families in our congregations.

Worship MTL Paul Payne



I was raised in Boiling Springs (a suburb of Spartanburg, SC) in an evangelical Christian church. A friend invited me to the UU congregation in Spartanburg and I loved the fact that there was a tradition that not only respected all faith traditions but also gave me chances to

learn from many of them. I have been a member of Northwest since April 2014. I joined the Worship Associates Team at that time as well. Worship associates add to the diversity of viewpoints with thought-provoking reflections and lay-led services. I want Worship Associates Team to continue to be a part of creating services that not only inform but also nurture our spiritual growth as individuals and as a community.

Social Justice MTL Marcia Kreycik



I joined Northwest in 2008 after relocating from Richmond, VA. As a previous Community Ministry Team Lead (MTL), I focused on publications and established a communications policy and started Lunch with TED. For Gardens and Spaces I coordinated and worked on renovation of both the Chalice House and Main Building. During my current

term as MTL for Social Justice, I have pondered about how its mission could become more meaningful. As a congregation, we have always been very generous through our DTP giving. I want to revitalize active involvement in causes reflecting our Seven Principles. I am working to provide opportunities to members to participate in activist campaigns and to do volunteer service for organizations.



Build the Endowment Brick by Brick

Help us line both sides of our walkway with bricks that celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and other milestones in our members' lives as well as those that memorialize loved ones we have lost. Consider purchasing a brick to memorialize the best times and best people in your life. Bricks come in two sizes 4x8 for \$100 or 8x8 for

\$300. To have something at your home as well, order a tile with the same message for just \$25 more. Funds raised go toward Northwest's endowment and create a sound foundation for our future. Contact [Marti Wilson](#) (770.565.0402).

Worship Services August 2015

Reflecting on Abundance

Service at 10:00 AM

The Nursery is staffed and available during services and Fellowship.

Sunday worship services may be led by our minister, Rev. Terry Davis, guest ministers or the members of the Northwest Worship Associates team.

Additional information about the coming week's services is published in the weekly NeUUs and on our website. Not getting the NeUUs? Contact Office Administrator Shirley Banks at office@nwuuc.org to sign up.

August 2 – Life Changes

Worship Leaders—Letitia Sweitzer and Aruna Rao-McCann
Music—Dustin Cottrell

Whether we resist or accept change, we must adapt to its demands. Our transitions are marked by turning points where our courage and ingenuity are tested and where we are given a challenge to grow. What lessons have you learned? What growth have you experienced from your own turning points?



August 9 – Forgiveness

Worship Leaders—Paul Payne and David Stewart
Music—Edward Lawrence

Practicing forgiveness can be a powerful spiritual practice. Releasing grudges and anger can help us heal after we've been hurt, but there are times when forgiveness can seem impossible. What can we learn from people who are able to offer forgiveness after experiencing horrible violence and injustice? Are there times when it is unwise to forgive?

“As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison.”

- Nelson Mandela



August 16 – Whose Water is It?

(Ingathering and Water Appreciation Multigenerational Service)

Worship Leader—Rev. Terry Davis
Worship Associate—Tony Barbagallo
Music—The Northwest Band

In a Haitian folktale, a four-legged caretaker of a well lets his power go to his head . . . and leaves us to ponder: Just who does our groundwater belong to? Join Rev. Terry Davis for this annual worship service where we “gather in” as a community after our summer vacations and consider the precious natural resource that quenches our thirst, cools our bodies, and provides life to all.

In a twist on Northwest's usual Water Communion Service, you are invited NOT to bring water with you to Sunday's service. Instead, there will be time to share your stories of the special waters you encountered on your summer travels . . . and left behind for others to share. Bring a dish to share for our community potluck immediately following the service. See page 5 for details.



August 23 – The God of Now

Worship Leader—Rev. Terry Davis
Worship Associate—Glenn Koller
Music—Grace Tian Meng Fowler

When talking to a millennial-aged friend of mine about God, she confessed that she'd like to ditch the God of her childhood for the “God of Now” – one that is abundant in love, compassion and wisdom – but finds the prospect challenging. Why is that? What stops her – and perhaps the rest of us – from trusting that more can be delivered from God, the universe or whatever may be the guiding forces in our lives?

Worship Services August 2015

Reflecting on Abundance

Service at 10:00 AM

August 31 – *Don't Stop Believing*

Worship Leader—Rev. Terry Davis

Worship Associate—Paul Payne

Music—The Northwest Choir

The defeat of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in Georgia, the U.S. Supreme Court rulings that legalized same-sex marriage and upheld the Affordable Care Act, the growth of the Black Lives Matter movement – these are significant events in our state and nation's journey toward wholeness. How can we keep the momentum going? What keeps us believing that oppression can be dismantled and loving kindness is abundant?



Coming in September:

September 6 – *Proud About It!*

Worship Leader—Rev. Duncan Teague

Worship Associate—Neal Steffin

Music—The Northwest Choir



Labor Day Weekend, Black "Gay" Pride and Dragoncon, all on this same little weekend in Atlanta. There is a "spirit" present in all of the observances, let's see what the spirit might be.

Is this weekend, jammed with festivals of identity, outrageous fun and costumes of all sorts, about more than communal pride? Are there deeper needs being met about who we are communally and what we need to survive to claim such spaces in the public sphere?

Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Duncan Teague serves as the Faith Outreach Consultant for Georgia Equality, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing fairness, safety and opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and allies throughout the state.

Ingathering Community Potluck, August 16

Join us for our annual Ingathering Sunday and "it's good to get together" Northwest potluck lunch. Please bring a food item to share. (Adding an identifying food label and putting your name on your container is appreciated!)

Potlucks are fun, but they require extra set-up and clean-up hands. Please let [Anne Bennett \(770.392.1080\)](mailto:anne.bennett@nwu.org) know if you are willing to assist our fabulous Kitchen Crew. See you on August 16 immediately following the Water Appreciation service.



Reflections from the No. 8



The bus stop was barely a block away from my vacation rental apartment. With cooler temperatures and this very short walk, it was easy for me to take

advantage of public transit while at the UUA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon in June.

The Number 8 snorted to a stop at 7:30 AM on the morning of my last day there, and I hopped on board. As I paid my bus fare, a middle-aged looking man in the front seat said something to me I didn't understand. He was wearing glasses, a faded plaid shirt and rumpled, torn pants. His hair – long, light brown, and full of knots – looked like it hadn't been combed in weeks.

I plopped down with my backpack in a row near his.

"I'm sorry," I said, after getting my bearings. "What did you say?"

He pointed to the name tag swinging from my neck. "Are you here for the Unitarian Universalist convention?" he repeated.

"Oh, yes . . . I am," I responded, taking in his appearance more carefully and wondering about him and his story.

His tan, lined face broke into a grin. "I was thinking of going to the big worship service down at the convention center," he continued. "It's free, right?"

"Absolutely," I said, painfully aware of the privilege that afforded me the opportunity to fly from Atlanta to Portland, stay in a cozy apartment in a lovely, leafy Portland neighborhood, and pay the fees to attend the UUA General Assembly.

The man noticed the "Rev." on my nametag and asked me what congregation I served. He was eager to let me know that he knew an Atlanta minister "with a funny name." We spent a minute or two trying to figure out who it was. I was aware that other people on the bus were watching us talk.

Well before the bus stopped at the Oregon Convention Center, the man stood up abruptly to disembark. "It was nice talking with you," he said. "My name's Barry Sutton." He then turned around to gather his belongings, which I hadn't noticed until just that moment: two large black plastic trash bags filled to the brim with possessions.

Just as my mind started snapping into place the floating puzzle pieces of tattered clothes, tangled hair, weathered face, and stares from the other riders, Barry confirmed my suspicion. He turned to face me as the bus doors flew open.

"And, oh, I'm homeless," he added, in a matter-of-fact way, before stepping off.

Barry waved good-bye to me from the other side as the Number 8 snorted and lurched forward. Through the window, I watched him balance on his shoulders likely everything he owned and walk slowly away.

A homeless man named Barry . . . who was also probably a Unitarian Universalist. The surprise of that common religious ground between us left me feeling strange . . . a feeling I later identified as humility. Meeting Barry reminded me that those on the margins of society are connected to us in more ways than we might imagine.

Just a days before I met Barry, scholar and activist Dr. Cornel West spoke to several thousand Unitarian Universalists gathered at the General Assembly about the need for radical activism. He reminded us that "justice is what love looks like in public." He quoted W.E.B. Dubois, who offered four hard questions to consider as we work to build the beloved, inclusive community:

What does integrity do in the face of oppression?

What does honesty do in the face of deception?

What does decency do in the face of insult?

How does virtue meet brute force?

How do I show my love for my siblings in the public square . . . or on the public bus? What radical thing can I do to demonstrate that love can't wait . . . that justice can't wait? How will integrity, honesty, decency and virtue manifest in my life when I'm once again reminded that oppression isn't "out there," but so very close and in need of an immediate response?

To my fellow Unitarian Universalist on the Number 8 bus: you gave me even more courage to work for justice. I look forward to joining with the Northwest community as we work together for social and eco justice during the 2015-16 program year.

And to my friend, the Rev. Duncan Teague of Atlanta: Unitarian Universalist Barry Sutton from Portland, Oregon says hello.

Warmly,

Terry

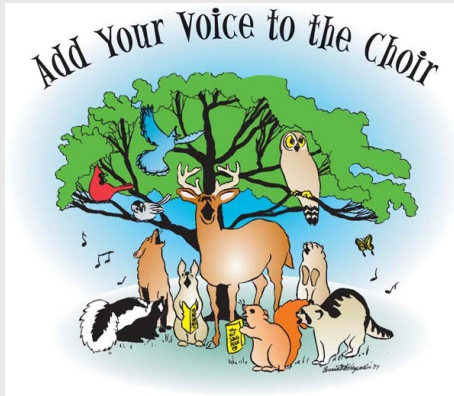
Rev. Terry Davis

Thematic Development

The first movement of a symphony usually has three main sections: the exposition, development and recapitulation. In the exposition, a composer presents at least two musical ideas, or themes, which are expounded upon in the development section. For example, if a theme was originally stated in a major key, it may be presented in a minor key, or two themes might be played together in counterpoint.

I feel like I've just about finished the "exposition" in my tenure at Northwest. I've led the choir for four years, and I've led the band for two years. We could keep going like this, satisfied with our two themes, or we could develop them.

Starting in August, the major development in Northwest's music program will be the combining of the band and choir. I've already written and talked about this, but I especially want to mention our brand new development, the Join In Choir.



Once a month, the band and choir will join forces on Sunday morning. This will be a Join In Choir Sunday. As long as you are able join us for a rehearsal before, you are welcome to sing with the band and choir. Here are some details:

- We'll rehearse from 9:00-9:30.
- All ages are welcome. If your kids like to sing and you feel they can participate in a rehearsal and a service, bring them! The Join In Choir will be usually be finished by the time we're halfway through a service, so if you have children, they will be able to join their friends about ten minutes after the Story for All Ages.

- The music will be super easy. With only thirty minutes to rehearse, we're not going to be performing Handel's Messiah. I'll select music that is easy to learn and fun to sing.

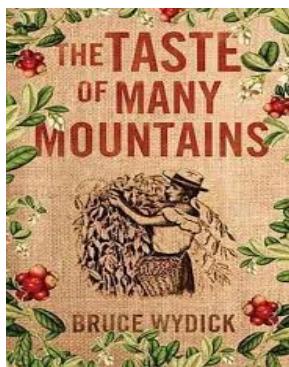
This is a chance to be musically involved at Northwest without having to attend a weekly rehearsal. It's an opportunity for musically inclined children to sing fun music and make an important contribution to Sunday services.

If you are interested in singing or would like to learn more about this musical opportunity, please let me know! You can email me at godfreyguitar@gmail.com.

Tom Godfrey
Director of Music



Book Notes: *The Taste of Many Mountains*



The NWUUC Book Groupies will not meet in August, but will resume on Tuesday, September 8. Join us at 7:00 pm in the Art Gallery to discuss the

novel *The Taste of Many Mountains* by Bruce Wydick, Professor of Economics and International Studies at the University of San Francisco.

"The coffee market is a microcosm of the intersection of economies and cultures that accompanies economic globalization. It illuminates the disparities between the rich world and the poor world, and yet creates a space in which these two worlds meet to carry out business. In the coffee market, the rich meet the poor and awareness grows of the chasm that separates

them," according to the author's introduction. This novel is set in Guatemala and based on an actual research project. The book is available in our bookstore.

Please bring suggestions for our fall books. All readers are welcome.

Incidentally, Charleston Emmanuel AME Church, where the unfortunate massacre recently took place, is the church cofounded by Denmark Vesry, the freed slave whom we learned about in *The Invention Of Wings*.

An Exciting Year Ahead for Religious Education



This summer we have been diligently working on the coming program year for the children. Our goal is to offer more variety in the children's' Sunday morning experiences. We are also bringing back several family/ congregational events that you will hear about shortly, and the annual family camping trip is already in the works.

We are blessed to have an enthusiastic group of volunteers who want to not only look at the educational portion of RE, but also to consider the safety and community aspect that we all feel is important to the program. Our curriculum for the 2015/2016 year is:

~Our Pre K class will become *Chalice Children*. They will be introduced to the structure and routine of a Sunday school setting. There are lots of fun activities and opportunities for children to move and giggle. We want to create an environment where they feel our congregation is a fun and safe place to create new friendships and begin to become familiar with UU principles on a level they will understand.

~Our K-1st class, *Creating Home*, helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith. They will speak of home as a place of belonging and explore the roles each of us play in our homes. The program

introduces the concept of a "faith home"—our congregation—which shares some characteristics with a family home. Like a family home, a faith home offers its members certain joys, protections and responsibilities.

~Our 2nd and 3rd grade program is called *Moral Tales* because every day our children go forth into a complex world where they are often faced with difficult decisions and situations. *Moral Tales* attempts to provide children with the spiritual and ethical tools they will need to make choices and take actions reflective of their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values.

~ Our 4th and 5th graders will *Sing to the Power* as they look at our Unitarian Universalist tradition, which has long placed an emphasis both on our human capacity to change the world and our moral obligation to exercise our powers for the common good. We believe each individual, as part of our inherent worth and dignity, has power. There are many kinds of power as well as many ways to express one's power in the world. The children will experience their own power and understand how it can help them to be leaders.

~We will offer the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program to 6th, 7th and 8th grade youth. This is an excellent program integrating sexual education and values from the perspective of our Unitarian Universalist community. We are offering this program, which is part of an all-ages UU curriculum concerning human sexuality education, to our youth in a positive and supportive atmosphere.

~ Our High School youth group meets on Sunday mornings from 10 to noon. They are involved in worship, social justice programs and discussions about relevant issues and how to reflect and respond to them using UU principles. Our high school group is for young people 9th through 12th grade only.

This year our Children's Chapel Sundays will be followed by a program



called 7 on the 7th (7 Sundays on the 7th principle). Earth Ministries and the RE committee will have an all-ages event where we lift up our respect for the interdependent web of all existence. Everyone will be welcomed to participate in exploring ways that we can care for our earth and its resources.

We look forward to a great year and hope to see our program grow in both numbers and strength of community.

RE Mission Statement: *to provide our children and youth a welcoming and safe community that encourages the development of the tools and ability to make confident choices based on Unitarian Universalist principles.*

Elizabeth Hickman
Director of Religious Education for Children

Rev. Terry Davis on Vacation and Study Leave Through August 4

Rev. Terry Davis was on vacation and study leave, but she will be back in the office starting Wednesday, Aug. 5 and in the pulpit beginning Aug. 16.

Northwest members with pastoral care emergencies before August 5 (such as life-threatening illnesses, injuries, or deaths) can contact Rev. Joan Armstrong Davis at 404.275.0236.

Northwest members with non-emergency pastoral care needs can contact the following members of the Northwest Care Corps Team:

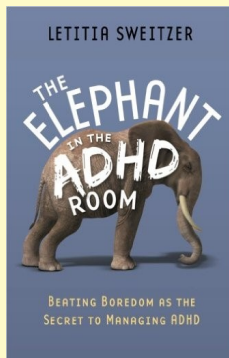
- Linton Hopkins (lch9067@gmail.com)
- Lil Woolf (lwoolf741@bellsouth.net)

Members of the community seeking assistance, please visit Northwest's website for resource information: www.nwuuc.org/ministry-teams/community/care-corps-resource/.



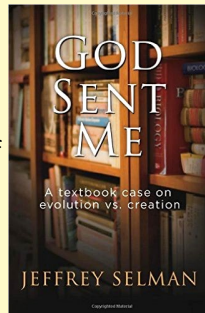
News from Bellwether Books

We have many notable new books with Northwest connections in Bellwether Books this summer.



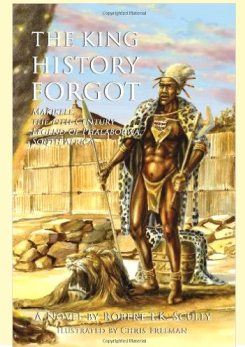
Letitia Sweitzer won Georgia Author of The Year for her informative book *The Elephant in The ADHD Room*.

Also, just released, *God Sent Me: A Textbook Case on Evolution vs Creation*. This book recounts Michael Manely's precedent-setting 2004 legal challenge to Cobb County's use of stickers in their science books that



questioned the theory of evolution. *God Sent Me* is written by Jeffrey Selman, the courageous parent who initiated the legal action.

We also have *The King History Forgot - Makikele, the 19th Century Legend of Phalaborwa, South Africa* by Robert Scully who has visited us often.



Come by and check these out!

Join Rev. Terry Davis for Ingathering and Water Appreciation Service, August 16

Northwest is a faith community that has a passion for environmental sustainability and eco-justice. With these values in mind, you are invited to join Rev. Terry Davis for a fun and thoughtful "Water Appreciation Service" on August 16, followed by Northwest's traditional "ingathering" community potluck.

On this day, you will be invited to share stories of special waters you encountered on your summer travels near and far . . . while leaving the water in its place of origin for others to share.

You are also invited to bring a dish to share (vegetarian and gluten-free options welcome) as we catch up with one another and launch another program year of spiritual reflection, community building, and justice-making.

For more information on the potluck, please contact Community Ministry Team Leader [Ruth Subramanian](mailto:Ruth.Subramanian@nwuuc.org) (770.452.1921) or see the article on page 5.



Lunch with TED: Everyday Moments Caught in Time August 19

Combining dry wit with artistic depth, Billy Collins shares a project in which several of his poems were turned into delightful animated films in collaboration with Sundance Channel.

Five of the films are included in this wonderfully entertaining and moving talk — and don't miss the hilarious final poem!



Come to Lunch with TED on Wednesday, August 19, from 11:45 am till 1:15 pm for discussion and fellowship in the Art Gallery. You can preview [the TED talk](#) or just come and watch it with us.

Prepare to be amazed at how poetry can tell so much in very few words!

Meet Our New Members!

Please welcome new members Julie Medlin and Jay Hall, who, along with David Stewart, Barbara Dondiego-Stewart, Tom and Linda Couch, and Verna Barrett (featured in previous newsletters), participated in the New Member Recognition Ceremony on Sunday, June 14.

Julie Medlin and Jay Hall are both originally from Alabama, but have lived a lot of other places. Neither was raised with much religion, though their families were Christian and went to church occasionally. They have explored a number of different faiths and have decided that UU fits them best. They feel that the inspirational sermons help remind them to live a mindful and meaningful life. Julie and Jay attended UUCA for seven years and switched to Northwest when they moved to Sandy Springs.

They plan to continue raising their children, Macy and Maya, in the accepting and loving UU community, and plan to be actively involved at Northwest.



UNiverse

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Board Secretary, **Becki Gregory**
President Elect, **Kristen Fowks**
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Beth Clinton
Glenn Koller
Roland Dewitt

General Assembly 2015

Another exciting year at General Assembly!

We had a large contingent of Northwest members and friends at this year's GA joining Rev. Terry Davis: Dave Zenner, David Morgen, Keith Kreycik, Marcia Kreycik, Ruth Subramanian, Mani Subramanian, Allen Rider, Karen Reagle, Elizabeth Marsala, David Stewart, Laura Hall and Lil Woolf. We attended workshops and general plenary sessions, worshipped, met old friends and made new ones, and met as a group periodically.



The highlight of GA for Northwest UUs this year was watching Rev. Terry Davis receive public recognition for her accomplishment of attaining full, final fellowship as a UU minister. Those of us in attendance cheered

“loud and proud” as her name was called and she walked across the stage. Her credentialing was official in November 2014, but this was the grand ceremony at the Service of the Living Tradition that brought us to our feet.



There were no big elections for the delegates to vote on, but there were bylaws amendments, Actions of Immediate Witness and Study Action Issues for us to decide. All of these topics were overshadowed, however, as news broke when the Supreme Court made two monumental decisions that pleased us all. First was the news that the Affordable Care Act would not be gutted and the second was that the Court struck down the last obstacle for same sex couples to marry.



As the latter decision became known, UU President Peter Morales invited all same sex couples to join him, and the stage was full to overflowing with happy couples as we, in the audience, cheered them on.

Many of us were treated to a Q&A session with UUSC President Bill Schultz interviewing Representative John Lewis, who received the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights Leadership. One felt a sense of reverence listening to this great man.

One can't capture the excitement, the joys, the tears and the flavor of GA in a few words. Next year, consider joining us in Columbus, Ohio to see what I mean!

Lil Woolf

Celebrations!

August Birthdays

8/1 Gwen Kahn
 8/3 Jordan Goldman
 8/3 Nancy Tartikoff
 8/4 Vance Arbuckle
 8/4 Michael Dierickx
 8/4 Laura Montgomery
 8/9 Kristen Fowks
 8/10 Luke Newman
 8/10 Tifenn Vinton
 8/10 Tom Godfrey
 8/13 Chrissy Haddad
 8/15 Hannah Cowart
 8/17 Anne Bennett

8/21 Hugh Fordyce
 8/23 Don Langham
 8/23 Grace Tian Meng Fowler
 8/25 Ben Sellers
 8/29 Martin Sheline



Joining Anniversaries

8/3/2001 Steve Spears
 8/21/2005 Judy Seaman

Second Hour Resumes Aug. 23

Second Hour will kick off with Fellowship Sunday on August 23. Recurring activities such as CUUPS, Zen Meditation and the Creativity Lab will return in September along with the first of a year of stimulating conversations and engaging activities. Stay tuned!

Donate the Plate to Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, August 9



Atlanta Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and to making adequate, affordable, green housing a matter of conscience and action. Atlanta Habitat works primarily in the city of Atlanta and Fulton County to bring generous donors and hardworking volunteers together with qualified, working families. With more than 1,300 homes built or renovated since 1983, Atlanta Habitat has helped house more than 5,000 family members. The result is dramatic, positive differences in the lives of family members and in neighborhoods.

When families become economically empowered, local neighborhoods and the city at large benefit. Atlanta Habitat homeowners become stakeholders in community life. They become more active in civic organizations and proudly maintain their homes.

On August 9, Northwest has an opportunity to combat “escalating inequality,” the Congregational Study/Action Issue selected for 2014 through 2018, by donating the plate to Atlanta Habitat for Humanity. Our donations will support Atlanta Habitat’s 2015 goal to build 45 new, energy-efficient homes for qualified, working families and to deliver over 100 comprehensive homeowner education classes focused on financial literacy and home maintenance. Please give generously.

Haley Hart, a representative from Habitat for Humanity, will be at Northwest to answer your questions and continue the dialog during Fellowship time. Learn more by visiting <http://www.atlantahabitat.org>. Northwest members can become more involved by volunteering to provide a lunch for one of the work teams this fall. Contact Marcia Kreycik if you want to volunteer!

North Georgia Social Justice Cluster

The North GA Social Justice Cluster meets quarterly for the purpose of discussing organized legislative advocacy. The last meeting, held July 25, with 20 members from seven UU congregations in attendance, focused discussions around social and environmental justice, which included immigration, voting rights, racial

justice (Black Lives Matter) and gun violence.

This meeting also hosted guests that represented three Atlanta area Presbyterian churches that are collaborating with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on a three-year plan to build a school in the

EcoVillages that have already been constructed in Haiti.

The next meeting will be held from 10 am – 1 pm on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Emerson UU Congregation, 4010 Canton Rd, Marietta, GA 30066. For more information, please contact [Helen Borland](#).



Happenings at The Mountain

NWUUC ALL CONGREGATION RETREAT: OCT. 23 - 25

Don't miss this opportunity to socialize with fellow Northwest members at our beautiful Mountain Retreat Center in Highlands, NC. We have snagged a premier weekend for fall color at The Mountain this year so plan now to join us! Watch for more information in upcoming notices.

LGBTQ+ Youth Workshop: September 11 - 13

This weekend is geared for LGBTQ+ identifying high school youth. It will be full of fun, fellowship, learning, and self-expression. More details coming soon!

Southern UU Fall Institute (SUUFI): October 4 - 9

We have a great new program planned again for our 4th Fall Institute! Come enjoy SUUFI's blend of personal growth and fun, inspiration and relaxation, community and space. Our 2015 program will test your mind and your experiential skills, yet we trust you'll learn and leave with new options and commitment. Experience the color and coolness of fall in the western North Carolina mountains at our unique UU place in early October. Come join others of diverse thinking who want a positive week of "being," learning and connecting.

SpaceShip SUUFI 2015 takes you and 60-80 others on a journey with two talented navigators: A storyteller versed in UU Buckminster Fuller's constructs of the earth/universe and a UU minister to help us soar within ourselves, learning about other "ins and outs" of the world. SUUFI blends hands-on and experiential modes, producing fun and renewal with personal growth. View the [Flyer](#), [Schedule](#), and [Program Details](#).



Music at The Hungry Ear Coffee House™

August 1



Georgia native Matthew Kahler developed his craft and style in the coffeehouses of California before heading back to Atlanta. Kahler performs with musical inspirations drawn from James Taylor and Al Green with several stops in between.

The Mark Tucker Trio with vocalist Lori Perozzi perform a swinging blend of vocal and instrumental standards-with-a-twist as well as original jazz tunes in the classic Blue-Note style. The musicians in the group (Terry Vinyard, Phil Bonpastore, Mark Tucker) have played in New York, Miami and the Atlanta area for a number of years and have honed their chops for the past few years playing small group and big band dates around town.

Lori Perozzi has a rich, mellow voice that has captivated her audiences since she began singing professionally at age 19. Lori's love of the standards and the soulful sound of the torch singers strongly influenced her vocal style and led her to a sound of her own.

This month's coffee house will be on August 1 in the Northwest Sanctuary. The performance begins at 8:00 pm and doors open at 7:30. Please consider a donation of \$5. Canned goods for the Community Assistance Center (CAC) are also happily accepted.

Dining For Women Supports Community Cloud Forest Conservation, in Guatemala, August 16

This month, Dining for Women is supporting Community Cloud Forest Conservation in Guatemala (CCFC). The mission of CCFC is to alleviate poverty and protect forests through education, community development, leadership scholarships and ecological improvements to agriculture.



CCFC believes that holistic human/community development through education and capacity building is the key to bringing peace to Guatemala's central highlands. They aim to empower and equip young Q'eqchi' Maya women to be leaders and agents of positive change in their families, villages and natural environment. Through the project, 16,606 people will receive leadership training and poverty-alleviating agro-ecology skills and knowledge. Each year, 153 young women will receive intensive training as community leaders and

agents of positive change in their villages and families.

The dinner will be held on Sunday, August 16 from 5-7 pm. For more information, contact [Mary Perloe](mailto:Mary.Perloe@duke.edu) at [404-217-8201](tel:404-217-8201).



Contemplative Worship Coming to Northwest in September

Do you long for a meditative worship experience? One that uses silence, candles, prayer and simple singing to soothe you and help you connect to the deepest part of yourself?

If you do, be on the lookout for details about Northwest's contemplative worship service. Called "In the Spirit," it will be led by Rev. Terry Davis and held one evening a month starting in September. For more information, contact Rev. Davis at minister@nwuuc.org.



Worship Arts Ministers Wanted



Do you have an eye for simple and lovely aesthetics? Do you enjoy taking care of items to ensure their lasting quality and beauty?

Rev. Terry Davis is seeking persons who would enjoy facilitating a ministry of making Sunday worship services look and feel

beautiful. This could include starting a Sunday flower program (where Northwest members and friends provide flower arrangements for display at the pulpit) and caring for our new bronze chalice and ritual table linens.

If this interests you, please contact Rev. Davis at minister@nwuuc.org.

August

AUGUST CALENDAR

August 1

Hungry Ear Coffee House, 8:00 pm, Sanctuary

August 2

Worship Service, 10:00 am
Faith Stories, 10:15 am, CH

August 9

Worship Service, 10:00 am
Faith Stories, 10:15 am, CH

August 16

Worship Service and Water Appreciation Ceremony, 10:00 am
Ingathering Potluck, 11:30 am
Dining for Women, 5:00 pm

August 19

Lunch with TED, 11:45 am, Art Gallery
Choir practice, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

August 23

Worship Service, 10:00 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
Children's RE, 11:30 am
Fellowship Sunday, 11:30 am

August 26

Choir practice, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

August 30

Worship Service, 10:00 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
Children's RE, 11:30 am

CH=Chalice House



New Office Hours



Beginning in August, our minister and staff will have new hours.

Rev. Terry Davis: Starting with her return from Study Leave on August 5, Rev. Terry Davis's new office hours will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Fridays are her sermon-writing day and Mondays are her day off.

Elizabeth Hickman, Director of Religious Education for Children will be working from 9:00 am–noon on Sundays, 9:00 am–3:00 pm on Mondays

and Tuesdays and 9:00 am–4:00 pm on Wednesdays.

Director of Music Tom Godfrey will be in the office on Wednesdays after 2:00 pm.

Office Administrator Shirley Banks will be working from 9:30 am–4:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



NWUUC NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

1025 Mt. Vernon Highway, NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30327

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

August UNiverse Newsletter

Publications Available Online

If you have a print version of the UNiverse and want more information about any programs featured here or about others happening this month, please go to our website (nwuuc.org) and access the electronic version under the Publications tab. You can use the live links in these electronic publications to easily contact event organizers and while you're there, you can read more about our congregation, its programs and services.

Northwest UUC Mission Statement

Our congregation creates loving community, inspires joy and spiritual growth, and supports courageous action.

Unitarian Universalist Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- ◆ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ◆ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- ◆ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ◆ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ◆ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- ◆ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- ◆ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

